

Conservation Security Program in Nevada

Overview of 2006 CSP

CSP is a voluntary conservation program that supports ongoing stewardship of private and Tribal agricultural lands by providing payments for maintaining and enhancing natural resources.

“CSP rewards the best and motivates the rest.”

CSP identifies and rewards those farmers and ranchers who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management on their operations.

CSP provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands.

Working lands include cropland, grassland, improved pasture, rangeland, orchards, and vineyards, as well as forested land that is an incidental part of an agriculture operation.

BENEFITS

The conservation benefits gained through CSP will help farms and ranches be more economically and environmentally sustainable and will increase the natural resource benefits for all Americans.

HOW CSP WORKS

1. The 2006 CSP watersheds in Nevada are the South Fork Humboldt, Upper Carson, and West Walker (map below). A sign-up period will be announced in late 2005.

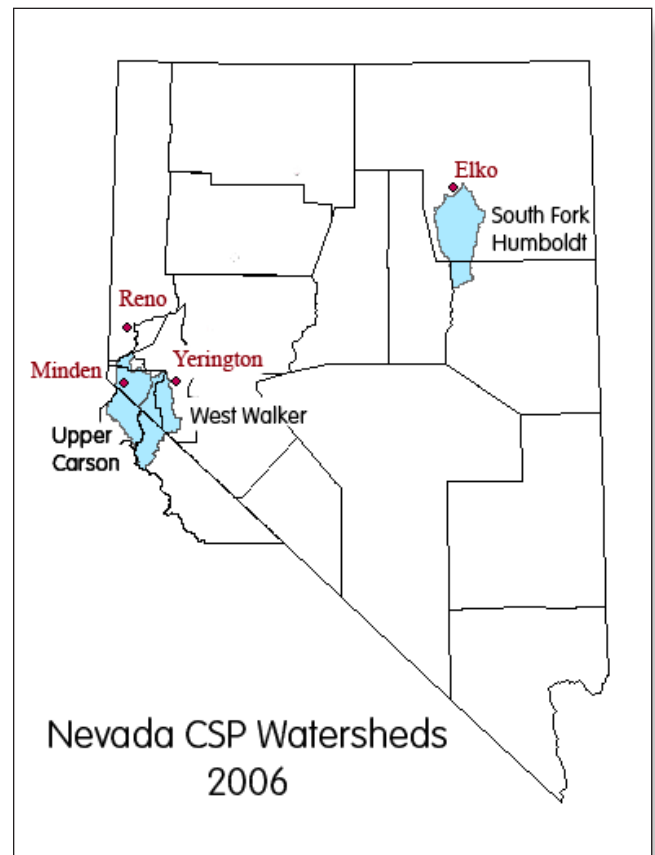
2. Producers must complete the self-assessment workbook to determine their eligibility for the program.

3. Producers are encouraged to attend a public meeting to ask questions and get answers from CSP experts, and to help determine their eligibility.

3. Eligible producers then submit an application.

4. Based on the application, description of conservation activities, and a follow-up interview, NRCS

will determine which program tier and enrollment category are available for the applicant.



BASIC ELIGIBILITY

Both the producer and the producer's operation must first meet these basic eligibility criteria:

- The land must be privately owned or Tribal land with the majority of the land located in one of the designated watersheds.

- The applicant must be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, have an active interest in the agricultural operation, and show control of the land for the life of the contract.
- Anyone who is a conservation stewardship participant other than the applicant, must be in compliance with adjusted gross income (AGI) requirements.
- A program participants will only receive payments from one conservation stewardship contract.
- The applicant must share in the risk of producing any crop or livestock and be entitled to a share in the crop or livestock marketed from the operation.

All applicants must meet the following minimum tier eligibility and contract requirements, plus any additional requirements in the sign-up announcement:

- Tier I—water quality and soil quality are addressed to minimum treatment requirements on part of the agricultural operation.
- Tier II—water quality and soil quality are addressed to minimum treatment requirements on the entire agricultural operation and one additional resource concern is addressed by the end of the contract period.
- Tier III—all resource concerns on the entire agricultural operation are treated to resource management system level according to NRCS Field Office Technical Guide standards and additional enhancement activities outlined in the sign-up announcement are applied.

Soil quality practices might include crop rotation, cover crops, conservation tillage, prescribed grazing, and adequate wind barriers.

Water quality practices might include managed access to streams, nutrient and pest management, prescribed grazing, and irrigation water management.

CONTRACT PAYMENTS

CSP contract payments include one of the following:

- Annual stewardship component for existing base level conservation treatment.
- Annual existing practice component for maintaining existing conservation practices.
- A one-time new practice component if needed to move between tiers.
- Enhancement components for selected conservation activities that provide increased resource benefits beyond prescribed program levels.

Total payments are determined by the tier of participation:

- For Tier I, contracts are for 5 years; maximum payment is \$20,000 annually.
- For Tier II, contracts are for 5-10 years; maximum payment is \$35,000 annually.
- For Tier III, contracts are for 5-10 years; maximum payment is \$45,000 annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSP, contact the NRCS office for your watershed area:

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